



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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[Docket No. HM-88]

TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS

Notice of Board Action

On July 15, 1971, the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board published a notice of proposed action, Docket No. HM-88 (36 F.R. 13173) with respect to bulk rail shipment of propylene in DOT Specification 112A340W and 114A340W tank cars.

In that notice, the Board expressed its opinion that the standard design relationship between a tank car's test pressure and its maximum authorized operating pressure should be preserved as a principle of transportation safety. It observed that there were several special permits outstanding for propylene shipment in cars not in accord with that regulatory principle. The vapor pressure of propylene at 115° F. is at least 259 p.s.i.g. This exceeds the upper limit of 255 p.s.i.g. prescribed for Specification 112A340W and 114A340W tank cars. Based on these considerations, the Board proposed rescission of these special permits.

Persons objecting to the Board's proposed rescission of the permits did not present engineering or design data that would support continuance of the present departures from the current regulatory principles. The Board further notes that DOT Specification 114A400W was authorized for use in propylene service by a recent amendment to the Hazardous Materials Regulations thereby providing another specification car for use by shippers.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board hereby establishes June 30, 1972, as the expiration date for all special permits issued to authorize the transportation of propylene having a pressure in the tank car over 255 p.s.i.g. but not over 259 p.s.i.g. at 115° F. New permits may be issued until that date, and existing permits will be renewed if necessary, but all permits will terminate simultaneously on June 30, 1972.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 3, 1972.

MAC E. ROGERS,  
Board Member for the  
Federal Railroad Administration.

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